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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6479

BILL NUMBER: HB 1595

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 23, 2015

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Truancy and Runaways.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Lawson L

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill repeals provisions allowing juvenile courts to modify disposition orders concerning truancy and runaways.

Effective Date: July 1, 2015.

Explanation of State Expenditures: During CY 2013, the Indiana Youth Institute reported that 16 juveniles were housed in Department of Correction (DOC) juvenile facilities for either repeated truancy or running away from home. The estimated average cost of housing a juvenile in a state juvenile facility was \$89,956 in FY 2014. The costs of housing juveniles in DOC juvenile facilities has been paid solely from the state General Fund since January 1, 2009.

These juveniles would no longer be able to be committed to DOC facilities, saving DOC at least the marginal cost of housing these offenders.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: This bill would reduce costs by between \$500,000 and \$600,000 for counties that commit repeat runaways and truant to county secure detention facilities and private facilities. But juvenile courts would be required to develop new programs to address the issues concerning why these juveniles run away from home or skip school.

Under current law, a juvenile who is a runaway or truant may be placed in a secure detention facility for 24 hours. If the juvenile repeatedly runs away from home or repeatedly does not attend school, then the juvenile

court may issue a written warning of the consequences of running away or not attending school. If the juvenile continues to disobey the written warnings of the court, the court may change its order and commit a juvenile to a secure facility at the local, state, or out-of-state facility for not more than 30 days.

This bill repeals this power of the court to commit a repeat juvenile runaway or truant to a secure detention facility for more than 24 hours.

The Indiana Youth Institute reports the following about repeat truants and runaways in secure detention facilities between CY 2007 and 2013.

Repeat Runaways and Truants in Secure Detention Facilities at the County and State Level						
CY 2007	CY 2008	CY 2009	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	CY 2013
175	395	406	211	210	190	190
Source: Indiana Youth Institute.						

In CY 2013, of the 174 juveniles who were held in secure facilities at the county level and 16 juveniles held in state facilities for repeat runaway and truancy violations as juvenile status offenders. If these courts may no longer house juveniles in these facilities, then the courts would be required to develop new programs to address the needs of these juveniles.

The average per diem cost to house a juvenile in a secure detention facility depends on whether the juvenile is housed in a facility in the same county or another county. The average “same county” rate for the 22 juvenile detention facilities in Indiana was \$95.63. The average per diem if the juvenile is placed in a facility in another county is \$116.21. Consequently, the average cost for a 30-day commitment for these juveniles would be between \$2,868 and \$3,486. The statewide avoided costs for not committing these 174 juveniles in 2013 is between \$499,199 and \$606,610.

[The Indiana Youth Institute is designated as the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute’s compliance monitor for requirements under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. (IC 31-37-4-4)]

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Correction.

Local Agencies Affected: Juvenile courts.

Information Sources: Laurie Elliot, Indiana Youth Institute.

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